

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1- 5 are amended.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner To to Applicant's representative during the June 22, 2005 personal interview. The personal interview is summarized below and thus constitutes Applicant's record of the interview.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with this Amendment. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Bauer, U.S. Patent No. 5,082,310. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Bauer fails to disclose a trim member with a door hinge portion protecting plate, wherein a predetermined spacing is provided between the door hinge portion protecting plate and a lower surface of the air bag door portion, as recited in claim 1. As also agreed during the personal interview, Bauer fails to disclose a trim member with a force concentrating means, wherein a predetermined spacing is provided between the force concentrating means and a lower surface of the air bag door portion, as recited in claim 2.

Bauer fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 1 and 2 because Bauer fails to provide any spacing between any door hinge portion protecting plate or force concentrating means and a lower surface of Bauer's substrate member 26 (which is the only feature in Bauer to include a hinge portion). Bauer thus fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 1 and 2, as well as the additional features recited in claims 3-5. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SMS/sxb

Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination
Information Disclosure Statement

Date: June 24, 2005

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